

Note; Write the notes in Note Books

Agriculture

- means the cultivation of plants and animals for human use and purposes
- the science and practice of cultivating for food and keeping or breeding animals for food

Classification of Agriculture

Category	Type	Example
Common Agriculture of plants	Botany	All flowers, Shrubs, Grasses
	Crops	Dalo, Sugarcane. Yaqona, Ginger
	Vegetable	Cabbage, Lettuce
	Fruits	Pineapple, Pawpaw, Banana, Orchards
	Cereal	Rice, Wheat, Maize
	Peas	Long bean, French bean
Biotechnology	Aquaculture	Prawn, Crab, Pearl, Seaweed
	Hydroponics	Most types of vegetables
Livestock	Grazing	Dairy, Horses, Camels, Donkeys, etc.
	Meat	Cattle, Sheep, Goat, Piggery, etc
	Poultry	Chicken, Geese.

Subsistence agriculture is a small-scale production of crops or *animal husbandry* for self-sufficiency or simply farming for your own use. i.e.. for household diet and social obligations.

Commercial agriculture is large scale production of crops or animal husbandry for economic gains or benefits; through distribution to wholesalers, retail outlets, specialized markets (domestic and international) and local markets.

This type of farming is mostly *capital intensive* than *labour intensive* to be able to cater for the increasing demands and diverse demands of the consumers.

Importance of Agriculture

Environmental Importance

1. ***Retention of vegetation*** –this is essential to retain soil cover. It also prevents soil erosion and retains to some extent the microclimate of that particular area.
2. ***Retains the biodiversity*** – retains the biodiversity to some extent such as to retain the food chains and food web of specific areas, thus saving most of the organisms from being extinct in a particular area.
3. ***Retains soil cycles*** – the presence of plants means humus for the soil which contributes to the nutrient cycles and other soil cycles.
4. ***Retains soil fertility*** – vegetation does not only retain soil cycles; it also retains all the elements which make up the whole soil composition. It also prevents soil erosion.

Economic Importance

1. **Source of income/livelihood** - it promotes employment and employment opportunities, and wealth to provide for their daily needs and wants.
2. **Promotes investments** – as demands continue to vary there would continue to be an increase in investment opportunities and as population grows the market continues to expand
3. **Increases Government Revenue and GDP** – as commercial agriculture increases the GDP of the country also increases which means the increase in Government Revenue (especially due to export earnings).
4. **Multiplier Effect** – earnings from agricultural sales have multiplying effects in a country. That is , from the revenue earned by the government which promotes development and economic growth to the earnings of a simple farmer which provides for his livelihood and social obligations.

Social Importance

1. **Source of fresh daily food** – this is the main reasons of practicing agriculture is to provide fresh food to the farmer and his/her family and especially to consumers.
2. **Source of healthy diet** – it provides food from all the food groups hence it provide healthy diets to the farmer and the consumers.
3. **Promotes development** – it will mean infrastructural development, technical and financial assistance provided by the government; development initiated by the farmer; and development created by other investors and services which are either drawn into or decentralized into these farming areas.
4. **Food security** – finally the growth of the agriculture sector would mean food security for the people.

Problems Caused by Agriculture

Environment	Economic	Social
Pollution	Leakage – foreign investors/ expats.	Conflicts over land
Soil Degradation	Inc. Gov. Expenditure	Poor working conditions
Loss of biodiversity	Expenses of maintenance	Health risk – fertilizer deposits on vegetables
Destruction of habitats	Inflation – increase in prices of goods	Lack of space for development

Contemporary Issues

1. Uncontrolled Agriculture

Economic Benefits or wealth gained from commercial agricultural has influenced money-minded farmers to continue to expand their farms without regards of space, land capacity and sustainability.

Uncontrolled science practices in agriculture would result in undesired agricultural products which would destabilize the equilibrium in our ecosystem.

2. Climate Change

Climate Change has multiple effects to our environment. e.g. Droughts, Flooding, Cyclones, etc.

3. Coastal Flooding

Coastal Flooding contributes to the destruction of agricultural land.

4. High population Growth

High population growth threatens food security and causes food scarcity.



Intensive Agriculture- This a type of agriculture where there is a lot of capital and labour input such as to increase the production per unit area. Usually the piece of land is not given much time to fallow and there is great use of fertilizers, pesticides and weedicides. Eg. Sugarcane farming,etc.

Extensive Agriculture- is a type of agriculture where there is little input of capital , labour, fertilizers and pesticides or weedicides. There is very little production per unit area (as compared with intensive agriculture). Hence, it would require a large area of land for production to increase. This type of agriculture is carried out low cost land or land that is owned by an individual or entity. It is also carried out in areas where population is low and usually the location is at a distance from its markets.

Land Tenure Systems

- land that is owned by the governing body which is known as “*State or Crown*”
- a landholder landowner unit which could either be traditionally claimed and known as *native land*
- Freehold land can be sold and bought and is privately owned
- State land and Native land cannot be sold and bought but either used by the landowning unit or is available on leasehold basis within a confined number of years; which would then be known as State lease or Native lease.

Activity 1

1. Identify some types of farming done in Fiji?
2. Differentiate between subsistence and commercial farming?
3. Explain how Agriculture had sustained the economy of Fiji during COVID 19?
4. State the advantages of using modern technology in Agriculture?
5. Discuss some negative impacts of using modern technology in Agricultural Systems?